

Applic. No. 10/718,315
Response dated October 4, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 28, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (withdrawn). A bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms of the abdominal aorta, comprising:

a tubular body having:

a lower extremity; and

an upper proximal extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the aorta;

a pair of tubular branches diverging from said lower extremity of said body and ending in corresponding distal portions;

said tubular body and said tubular branches being of a vascularly implantable material; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions.

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2 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 1,
wherein:

said retaining members are two stents; and

each of said stents is formed of a tubular portion of expandable
metal mesh of a biocompatible material.

3 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 1,
wherein:

said retaining members are two stents; and

each of said stents is fixed respectively within each extremity
of said distal portions and is at least partly covered by said
material.

4 (withdrawn). A bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing
aneurysms of the abdominal aorta, comprising:

a Y-shaped prosthesis body of a material implantable in vessels
having:

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a body portion with a lower extremity and an upper
extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the aorta;
and

a tubular branches respectively diverging away from said
lower extremity and ending in corresponding distal
portions; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions.

5 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 4,
wherein said retaining members are expandable retaining members.

6 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 4,
wherein said retaining members are two stents.

7 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 6,
wherein each of said stents is formed of a tubular portion of
expandable metal mesh of a biocompatible material.

8 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 4,
wherein each of said stents is fixed respectively within each

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extremity of said distal portions and is at least partly covered
by said material.

9 (withdrawn). The vascular prosthesis according to claim 6,
wherein each of said stents is fixed respectively within each
extremity of said distal portions and is at least partly covered
by said material.

10 (allowed). A delivery system for release of a prosthesis
having anchoring stents, comprising:

a pair of releasing balloon catheters each having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be inserted within a
corresponding stent of the prosthesis and to continue
adhering thereto throughout a time prior to release
thereof;

a self-supporting tube defining a single lumen and having a
first diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said
first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a

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first of said ends, fluidically connecting said lumen with
said inflatable balloon, and connecting said inflatable
balloon to said tube for passing liquid to inflate said
inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

a pair of inflating syringes each having a connection for
releasable attachment to said terminal connection of a
respective one of said releasing catheters and for fluidically
connecting a respective one of said syringes to said inflatable
balloon to inflate said inflatable balloon and thereby release a
respective stent;

a pair of guiding balloon catheters each having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third
diameter sized to pass said tube of said releasing catheter
therethrough, said dilator having:

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a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter
larger than said inner third diameter and being fitted
with a haemostatic valve;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer
fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth
diameter; and

an elongated distal portion tapering for retrieval in
an aorta; and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube running eccentrically outside said
sheath and terminating in a portion for connection to
one of said inflating syringes; and

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a terminal outer balloon connected to said second tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

introducers fitted with valves for each of said guiding catheters.

11 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 10, wherein each of said releasing catheters has a set of hooks adapted to be captured within a corresponding stent of the vascular prosthesis and to remain adhering thereto throughout a time preceding inflation of said inflatable balloon.

12 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 10, wherein:

each of said releasing catheters has a set of hooks corresponding to a shape of said inflatable balloon; and

said hooks are adapted to be captured within the corresponding stent of the prosthesis and to remain adhering thereto

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throughout a time preceding inflation of said inflatable balloon
for release.

13 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 10,
wherein:

said tube of said releasing catheters is threaded; and

said connection of each of said inflating syringe is
correspondingly threaded for connection to said tube.

14 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 10,
wherein said sheath is externally marked in centimeters and has
a selective moving ring system adapted to be immobilized on a
respective one of said introducers.

15 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 10,
wherein said sheath is externally marked in centimeters and has
an immobilizer locking said sheath on a respective one of said
introducers.

16 (allowed). A delivery system for releasing a prosthesis
having anchoring stents, comprising:

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a pair of releasing balloon catheters each having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within a portion of the prosthesis;

a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first
diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said
first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a
first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon
to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said
inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said
inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

a pair of inflating syringes each having a connection for
releasable attachment to said terminal connection of a
respective one of said releasing catheters and, when connected

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thereto, fluidically connecting a respective one of said
syringes to said inflatable balloon;

a pair of guiding balloon catheters each having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third
diameter sized to pass said tube of said releasing catheter
therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter
larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer
fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth
diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel;
and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

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an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to one of said
inflating syringes; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

introducers for introducing each of said guiding catheters into
a patient.

17 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 16,
wherein each of said releasing catheters has a set of hooks
adapted to be captured within a corresponding stent of the
vascular prosthesis for adhering said hooks to the prosthesis.

18 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 16,
wherein:

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at least one of said tubes of said releasing catheters is
threaded; and

said connection of at least one of said inflating syringes is
correspondingly threaded for connection to said at least one
tube.

19 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 16,
wherein said sheath is externally marked.

20 (allowed).. The delivery system according to claim 19,
wherein said sheath has a selective moving ring system adapted
to be immobilized on a respective one of said introducers.

21 (allowed). The delivery system according to claim 19,
wherein said sheath has an immobilizer locking said sheath on a
respective one of said introducers.

22 (currently canceled). A delivery system for releasing a
prosthesis having anchoring stents, comprising:

at least one releasing balloon catheter having:

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an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within a portion of the prosthesis;

a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first
diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said
first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a
first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon
to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said
inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said
inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

at least one inflating syringe having a connection for
releasable attachment to said terminal connection of said
releasing catheter and, when connected thereto, fluidically
connecting said syringe to said inflatable balloon;

at least one guiding balloon catheter having:

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a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third diameter sized to pass said tube of said release catheter therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel;
and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup connection;

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a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to said
syringe; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

at least one introducer for introducing said balloon guiding
catheter into a patient.

23 (withdrawn). A method for releasing an aortic prosthesis,
which comprises:

positioning an introducer in femoral arteries of a patient;

providing guiding balloon catheters with depth graduations and
balloons;

positioning the guiding catheters through the introducers to
locate the balloons in terminal parts of common iliac arteries;

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clamping the proximal aorta, inflating the balloons of the
guiding catheters, and opening the aorta for access from outside
the vessel;

threading distal ends of releasing balloon catheters through the
guiding catheters and recovering the distal ends of the release
catheters outside the patient;

connecting distal ends of releasing catheters to distal portions
of the prosthesis;

moving the prosthesis until distal portions of the releasing
catheters contact the guiding catheters;

suturing a proximal part of the prosthesis to the aorta;

inflating the balloons of the releasing catheters to fix the
distal portions of the prosthesis;

deflating the balloons of the releasing catheters and removing
the releasing catheters;

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deflating the balloons of the guiding catheters and removing the
guiding catheters;

suturing the aorta; and

removing the introducers.

24 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further
comprises introducing guide wires through the introducers.

25 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further
comprises maintaining a position of the guiding catheters with
the depth graduations viewed on the outside of the introducers.

26 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further
comprises carrying out the releasing catheter threading step by:

inserting distal ends of dilators through the guiding catheters;

threading the distal ends of the releasing catheters through
lumen of the dilators and recovering the distal ends of the
releasing catheters outside the patient; and

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removing the dilators.

27 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 26, which further comprises calculating a distance between at least one tip of the dilators and a point for aorto-prosthetic anastomosis and, thereby, determining a length of the vascular prosthesis to be implanted.

28 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 27, which further comprises cutting off prosthesis proximal surplus based upon the length determined.

29 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises:

carrying out the aorta incising step by incising the aneurysm of the aorta; and

carrying out the aorta suturing step by suturing the aneurysm of the aorta.

30 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises:

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disposing anchoring stents at distal portions of the prosthesis;
and

carrying out the connecting step by inflating balloons of the
releasing catheters within the stents.

31 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further
comprises carrying out the moving step by pulling the releasing
catheters until the distal portions of the releasing catheters
approximately abut against distal ends of the guiding catheters.

32 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 23, which further
comprises closing off the lumbar arteries at the opening of the
aorta.

33 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:

a pair of releasing balloon catheters each having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within a portion of the prosthesis;

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a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen at a second of said ends;

a pair of inflating syringes each having a connection for releasable attachment to said terminal connection of a respective one of said releasing catheters and, when connected thereto, fluidically connecting a respective one of said syringes to said inflatable balloon;

a pair of guiding balloon catheters each having:

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a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third diameter sized to pass said tube of said releasing catheter therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel; and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup connection;

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a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to one of said
inflating syringes; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

introducers for introducing each of said guiding catheters into
a patient.

34 (withdrawn). The kit according to claim 33, further
comprising a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms
of the abdominal aorta having:

a tubular body having:

a lower extremity; and

an upper proximal extremity to be sutured to a proximal
neck of the aorta;

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a pair of tubular branches diverging from said lower extremity
of said body and ending in corresponding distal portions;

said tubular body and said tubular branches being of a
vascularly implantable material; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions.

35 (withdrawn). The kit according to claim 33, further
comprising a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms
of the abdominal aorta having:

a Y-shaped prosthesis body of a material implantable in vessels
having:

a body portion with a lower extremity and an upper
extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the aorta;
and

a tubular branches respectively diverging away from said
lower extremity and ending in corresponding distal
portions; and

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retaining members secured to said distal portions.

36 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:

at least one releasing balloon catheter having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within a portion of the prosthesis;

a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first
diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said
first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a
first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon
to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said
inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said
inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

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at least one inflating syringe having a connection for releasable attachment to said terminal connection of said releasing catheter and, when connected thereto, fluidically connecting said syringe to said inflatable balloon;

at least one guiding balloon catheter having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third diameter sized to pass said tube of said release catheter therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel; and

a tubular sheath having:

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distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to said
syringe; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

at least one introducer for introducing said balloon guiding
catheter into a patient.

37 (withdrawn). The kit according to claim 36, further
comprising a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms
of the abdominal aorta having:

a tubular body having:

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a lower extremity; and

an upper proximal extremity to be sutured to a proximal
neck of the aorta;

a pair of tubular branches diverging from said lower extremity
of said body and ending in corresponding distal portions;

said tubular body and said tubular branches being of a
vascularly implantable material; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions.

38 (withdrawn). The kit according to claim 36, further
comprising a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms
of the abdominal aorta having:

a Y-shaped prosthesis body of a material implantable in vessels
having:

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a body portion with a lower extremity and an upper
extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the aorta;
and

a tubular branches respectively diverging away from said
lower extremity and ending in corresponding distal
portions; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions.

39 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:
a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms of the
abdominal aorta having:

a tubular body having:

a lower extremity; and

an upper proximal extremity to be sutured to a
proximal neck of the aorta;

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a pair of tubular branches diverging from said lower extremity of said body and ending in corresponding distal portions;

said tubular body and said tubular branches being of a vascularly implantable material; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions;

a pair of releasing balloon catheters each having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted within said retaining members of said prosthesis;

a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said inflatable balloon; and

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a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

a pair of inflating syringes each having a connection for
releasable attachment to said terminal connection of a
respective one of said releasing catheters and, when connected
thereto, fluidically connecting a respective one of said
syringes to said inflatable balloon;

a pair of guiding balloon catheters each having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third
diameter sized to pass said tube of said releasing catheter
therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter
larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer
fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth
diameter; and

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a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel;

and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to one of said
inflating syringes; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

introducers for introducing each of said guiding catheters into
a patient.

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40 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:

a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms of the abdominal aorta having:

a Y-shaped prosthesis body of a material implantable in vessels having:

a body portion with a lower extremity and an upper extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the aorta; and

a tubular branches respectively diverging away from said lower extremity and ending in corresponding distal portions; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions;

a pair of releasing balloon catheters each having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted within said retaining members of said prosthesis;

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a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen at a second of said ends;

a pair of inflating syringes each having a connection for releasable attachment to said terminal connection of a respective one of said releasing catheters and, when connected thereto, fluidically connecting a respective one of said syringes to said inflatable balloon;

a pair of guiding balloon catheters each having:

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a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third diameter sized to pass said tube of said releasing catheter therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel; and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup connection;

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a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to one of said
inflating syringes; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

introducers for introducing each of said guiding catheters into
a patient.

41 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:
a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms of the
abdominal aorta having:

a tubular body having:

a lower extremity; and

an upper proximal extremity to be sutured to a
proximal neck of the aorta;

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a pair of tubular branches diverging from said lower
extremity of said body and ending in corresponding distal
portions;

said tubular body and said tubular branches being of a
vascularly implantable material; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions;

at least one releasing balloon catheter having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within said retaining members of said prosthesis;

a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first
diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said
first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a
first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon
to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said
inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said
inflatable balloon; and

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a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen
at a second of said ends;

at least one inflating syringe having a connection for
releasable attachment to said terminal connection of said
releasing catheter and, when connected thereto, fluidically
connecting said syringe to said inflatable balloon;

at least one guiding balloon catheter having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third
diameter sized to pass said tube of said release catheter
therethrough, said dilator having:

a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter
larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer
fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth
diameter; and

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a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel;
and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to said
syringe; and

a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

at least one introducer for introducing said balloon guiding
catheter into a patient.

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42 (withdrawn). A vascular prosthesis delivery kit, comprising:
a bifurcated vascular prosthesis for curing aneurysms of the
abdominal aorta having:

a Y-shaped prosthesis body of a material implantable in
vessels having:

a body portion with a lower extremity and an upper
extremity to be sutured to a proximal neck of the
aorta; and

a tubular branches respectively diverging away from
said lower extremity and ending in corresponding
distal portions; and

retaining members secured to said distal portions;

at least one releasing balloon catheter having:

an inflatable balloon adapted to be removably inserted
within said retaining members of said prosthesis;

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a self-supporting tube defining a lumen and having a first diameter and two opposing ends;

a cup connection having a second diameter greater than said first diameter, said cup connection being disposed at a first of said ends and connecting said inflatable balloon to said tube to fluidically connect said lumen with said inflatable balloon to pass liquid to inflate said inflatable balloon; and

a terminal connection fluidically connected to said lumen at a second of said ends;

at least one inflating syringe having a connection for releasable attachment to said terminal connection of said releasing catheter and, when connected thereto, fluidically connecting said syringe to said inflatable balloon;

at least one guiding balloon catheter having:

a dilator defining an inner lumen having an inner third diameter sized to pass said tube of said release catheter therethrough, said dilator having:

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a proximal portion having an outer fourth diameter
larger than said inner third diameter;

a median portion having a substantially constant outer
fifth diameter smaller than said outer fourth
diameter; and

a distal portion tapering for insertion into a vessel;
and

a tubular sheath having:

distal ends;

an inner sixth diameter at least as great as said
outer fifth diameter of said median portion of said
dilator and less than said second diameter of said cup
connection;

a second tube extending away from said sheath and
terminating in a portion for connection to said
syringe; and

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a terminal outer balloon connected to said second
tube, said terminal outer balloon being disposed at
one of said distal ends of said sheath; and

at least one introducer for introducing said balloon guiding
catheter into a patient.